

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Crashed and Burnt since 1911

Monday, November 16th, 1992

Student federation proposes cutting health care

BY DAVE LEY

AS QUÉBEC'S parliamentary commission on Cégeps grinds on, a provincial Cégep student federation has proposed cutting health care as a means for paying for education at the college level.

The Fédération Etudiante Collégiale du Québec (FECQ) proposed last Tuesday at the commission that the government "cut other areas of the budget, notably to put into question the system of free health care." FECQ suggested that monies budgeted for health care could be transferred for funding Québec's financially strained Cégep system.

The government decided to establish the commission last spring to examine the position of Cégeps within Québec society. The commission, lasting from the 4th November to the 26th, will be look-

ing at the plight of the underfunded college system, including the possibility of introducing a tuition fee for Cégeps.

All provincial student associations, including FECQ, support the system of free tuition as it is now, and oppose any introduction of fees at the college level. However, some say that FECQ's proposition to cut back on health care de-legitimizes their position.

"This proposal will make the minister happy," said Gregoire Prince, external secretary for the student association at Cégep St-Laurent. "FECQ's position is an extreme right position. It's not very respectful of the position of its members, not to mention incredibly absurd."

"FECQ's proposition to cut health care is silly, it has nothing to do with education," added Prince.

Stephanie Bennes, president of the student association at Cégep

Edouard-Montpetit, which is a member of FECQ, admitted that her association is ambiguous about FECQ's position.

"We as an association have not taken a position on the issue of cutting health care—yes or no," said Bennes. "It is important to note though, that FECQ is trying to find solutions, and that we must prioritize education."

She added her opposition to any tuition at the college level.

"We are extremely opposed to tuition at the Cégep level," said Bennes. "We need accessible education."

Marc Goteau, vice-president of the student association at Cégep Bois-de-Boulogne, which is also a member of FECQ, also admitted there is some ambiguity over FECQ's position.

"We haven't envisaged how college education would be paid for, and we don't have an exact position

on FECQ's proposal to cut health care," said Goteau.

"We are completely opposed to all efforts by the government to impose tuition," added Goteau.

FECQ is the Cégep counterpart to the Fédération Etudiante Universitaire du Québec (FEUQ). Together they constitute the largest student association other than the Association Nationale des Etudiants et Etudiantes du Québec (ANNEQ), their main rival.

"It's completely nuts," said André Gagnon, executive member of ANNEQ. "How can we maintain free tuition and cut health care at

the same time. If students have to pay for health care as well, it's an absurd idea."

"FECQ has a very corporatist agenda," added Gagnon.

Other student associations who will be making proposals to the commission include the student association at the Université de Montréal on the 19th. ANEEQ will be present at the commission on the 25th.

McGill's student society will not be officially participating in the commission but the university administration will on November 17th.

Concordia Students' association struggles with \$136 000 debt

BY MARK BROOKER

MONTREAL (CUP) —

A SOARING DEFICIT for Concordia's student government is reaching dangerous proportions.

The Concordia University Students' Association (CUSA) budget debt has climbed to \$136 000 since 1987, according to CUSA co-president Phil Toone. Toone told the Concordia Board of Directors that the rising debt is a waste of students' money and must be dealt with.

CUSA's budget is nearly \$600 000 per year, mostly derived from a student levy of \$1.60 per credit.

When CUSA exceeds its overdraft limit—\$80 000 in the summer and \$10 000 in the winter—it has to pay back the money at 21 per cent interest.

Last year's interest payments on the deficit amounted to over \$13 000.

Toone and co-president Charlene Nero said they plan to ease the deficit by applying for a loan. This would eliminate overdrafts and lower interest rates on payments.

"Within a couple of months the deficit problem should be under control," said Toone. "There was a small overdraft every year starting in 1987, but the deficit increased acutely in 1990-91."

"Last year's administration was the first since 1987 not to go over budget," he said.

The co-presidents attributed most of the deficit to the 1990-91 Stuart Letovsky/Tammy Powell



Charlene Nero, CUSA co-president

administration. But Letovsky said this is "crap."

Letovsky claims when he left his position on March 31, CUSA had a \$12,000 surplus in the bank. He added that the deficit instead stems from a misuse of funds following his term.

"Individuals spent money improperly and they are trying to blame me for that," Letovsky said. "But I wasn't there at the time and when I left there was money in the bank."

Letovsky would not name the individuals he was accusing of wrong-doing.

And audited statements from 1990-91 show that CUSA's bank account on March 31 was in fact overdrawn by \$12 937.64.

CUSA cheques written after Letovsky's term, and before the fiscal year end in June 1991, revealed that all spending was accounted for.

CUSA's current comptroller Darren Porter said the comptroller from 1987-1991, Brent Jones, should have alerted the association to a deficit problem.

"The comptroller provides continuity as administrations change," Porter said. "Common sense would suggest that

the comptroller would be concerned about over-spending. If you are there for four years and not aware of the deficit problem, you aren't doing your job."

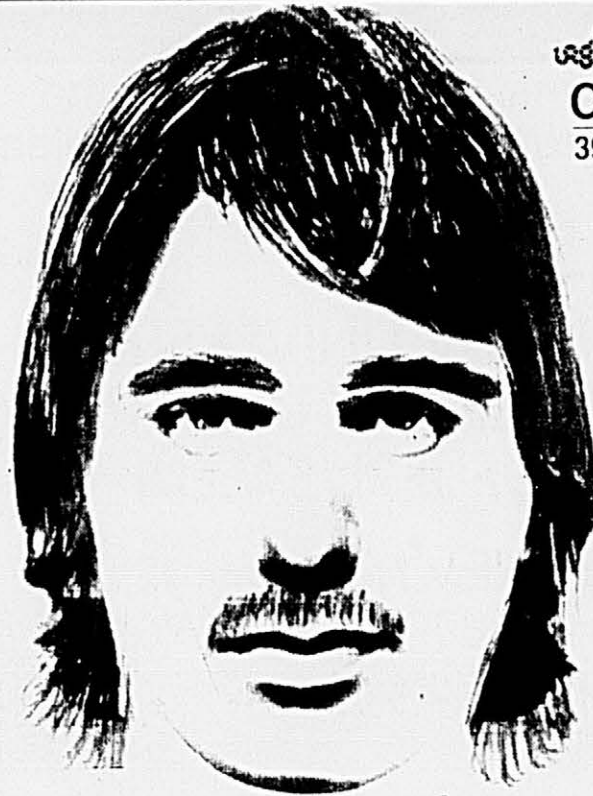
Jones, who resigned and moved to Vancouver in 1991, could not be reached for comment.

Porter pointed out that CUSAcop — CUSA's food and bar services arm — also puts a big strain on CUSA's budget because it has never made a profit and each year CUSA has to pay off CUSAcop's debts.

CUSAcop, which runs Mugshots, Reggies and The Dive at Concordia, now owes CUSA \$300 000. Porter said the debt probably won't be paid any time soon.

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THE ASSAILANT IS IN HIS THIRTIES. HE STANDS APPROXIMATELY 1.73M (5'8") TALL AND WEIGHS AROUND 77KG (170 LB). HE HAS LIGHT COLOURED EYES, LONG, DARK BROWN UNKEMPT HAIR, THICK EYEBROWS AND A MOUSTACHE. HE SPOKE ENGLISH. HE WAS WEARING JEANS AND A YELLOW SWEATER.

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False sense of immunity

Dawson Prof trivializes the spread of AIDS

BY DEBBIE HUM

MONTREAL (CUP) —

A SOCIOLOGY TEACHER at Montréal's Dawson College is being criticized for using course material which teaches students that heterosexuals are unlikely to get AIDS.

Students in Marc Grenier's class are taught that intravenous drug users, heterosexuals and blood transfusion recipients have a low risk of contracting HIV, the virus believed to cause AIDS.

But that contradicts assertions by AIDS educators and activists that the virus is contracted through high-risk behaviour which can include all such activities.

"All you need is someone who has the virus and a way to get it into your bloodstream," said Karen Herland, an assistant education and prevention coordinator at a Montréal AIDS awareness committee.

Grenier's choice of course materials has angered some Dawson students.

"How can you tell people they're not at risk? That's really frightening to me," said Robin Hand, a second-year social sciences student. "It's really dangerous because it's misinformation taught as fact in a respected institution."

Hand is a member of the Dawson AIDS Actions Organizing Committee (DAAOC), a student group whose goals include educating their peers about AIDS issues. She said DAAOC is opposed to much of what Grenier teaches his students regarding AIDS.

Grenier's information is based on a series of articles from the Hamilton Spectator which state Canadians have been misled about AIDS by government, community groups and by the media.

The articles — published in August, 1991 — used statistics to show the "true scope" of AIDS and said no data exists showing AIDS has spread from the so-called "high-risk groups." They suggested AIDS will not spread to the majority of Canadians.

Grenier also teaches theories put forward by a Toronto epidemiologist, Eric Mintz. Mintz said the average Canadian has about as much chance of contracting AIDS as dying in a commercial plane crash — about three in a million.

But DAAOC members said AIDS statistics can be misleading.

"Some material say people have a higher chance of dying of cancer than of AIDS, but (cancer) is a



neoplastic disease — it forms inside your body," said Sasha Goudriaan, a member of DAAOC. "You can't protect yourself (from cancer) by wearing a condom as you can with AIDS."

"Comparing stats on (airplane) accidents to stats on AIDS is like comparing apples to oranges," said Goudriaan.

Grenier said DAAOC's criticisms have made him angry, and that he has the right to teach his course as he sees fit.

"I have a right of academic freedom and no political activist group or member of a political activist group is going to come in this college and tell me what to teach in my course," he said in a telephone interview.

"It's a direct interference of a member of an organization that has a distinct political agenda. (That person is) using an institution of higher learning through which to communicate and distribute that political agenda," Grenier said.

Grenier said he also refers to quarterly reports on AIDS from the Laboratory for Disease Control in Ottawa.

"I'm not giving a political agenda. I'm giving students straight statistics," said Grenier. "I don't have the answers to all the questions about AIDS. Some of the best doctors in the world are still trying to figure out those questions."

But DAAOC members said they're concerned Grenier's statistics will give students a false sense of immunity to the virus.

"The CEGEP generation is just getting into sex. They don't want to think something really exciting can lead to a disease," said Hand. "Boys don't want to use condoms and believing AIDS is not a heterosexual disease is an excuse not to use one."

City briefs

ARTS AND CULTURE BIG LOSERS, BUS FARES TO BE RAISED

MCM sides with rich suburbs in new budget

BY DAMION STODOLA

Representatives and mayors from municipalities all over Montréal endorsed a decision to save money at all costs Thursday, approving major hikes in transit fares and punishing cuts in arts and culture funding.

The representatives of the Montréal Urban Community (MUC) met to discuss the MUC and public transport budgets.

Despite heated opposition from the Democratic Coalition of Montréal (DCM) and independent councillors from the city of Montréal, the suburban mayors and Montréal Citizens' Movement (MCM) councillors refused to acknowledge major flaws in both budgets.

Proponents glorified themselves saying despite the recession, they managed to keep budget increases to 2 points below the projected inflation rate. The budget included an increase of only 0.6 per cent from 1992.

The price of the restrained budget will result in a hike of 5 to 20 per cent for transit fares, and effective cuts in arts and culture funding.

MCM sells out to richer suburbs

DCM councillor Marvin Rotrand (Snowdon), said neither the MUC nor the transit corporation of the MUC have been acting responsibly.

Montréalers form a disproportionate number of public transport users and Rotrand claimed they are not being adequately represented.

Rotrand believed core services were being reduced due to political pressure from the wealthier suburbs who are less inclined to pay for public transport and other services.

Rotrand believes the less fortunate areas, primarily located in the jurisdiction of the city, are worse off as a result of what he called "Bottom-line politics".

Following the council, Rotrand said the MCM and suburbs have been acting together, behind closed doors to get their proposals passed

despite valid arguments from opposition.

"It's typical of the neo-conservative politics that we are seeing here," said Rotrand. He said the breakdown of payments from municipalities to the MUC clearly illustrates the MCM's lack of consideration toward Montréalers.

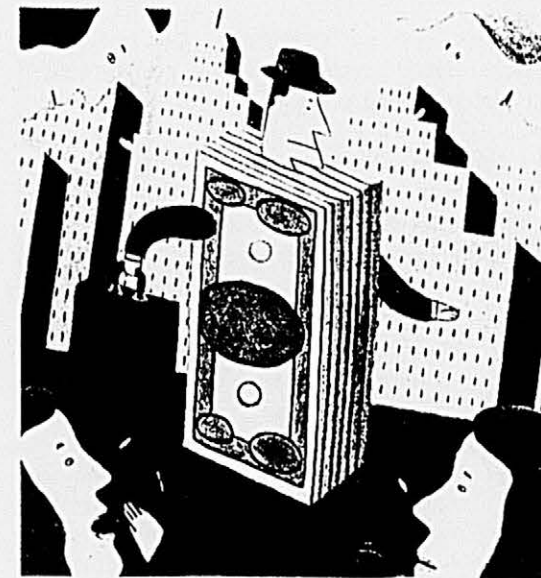
While the budget has increased, richer municipalities such as Westmount, Beaconsfield, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Town of Mount-Royal and Hampstead are paying less than they were last year to the MUC.

The City of Montréal is paying considerably more along with Verdun and Montréal-East.

Bus fares raised (again!)

Despite election promises by the Doré administration to freeze bus fares, no MCM councillor opposed the proposed fare hikes to take effect January first.

The transit corporation of the MUC, has blamed fare increases on government cutbacks and the MUC freeze on contributions made to the transit corporation.



Although DCM councillor Sam Boskey (Décarie) congratulated the transit corporation for its efforts in increasing ridership, he said the fee hike is a socially regressive policy.

While the minimum increase is 5 per cent for monthly card users, regular ticket prices will go up 7 to

9 per cent. Students and elderly will be hardest hit with increases of up to 20 per cent.

"We are in the process of punishing the less fortunate of the city," said Boskey.

DCM councillors and independants cite the fare hike as an example that the MUC is neglecting its responsibilities of serving the public in favour of bending to political pressure from the suburbs.

"The MUC is deliberately transferring the burden to the poor," said Boskey.

Arts and culture neglected

While the MUC budget increased 0.6 per cent, the arts and culture subsidies will remain at the same levels as 1992.

In real dollars this means a net cut in funding. Independent councillor Michel Prescott (Jeanne-Mance), proposed the council amend the budget, giving the Conseil des Arts (CACUM) the same proportion of the budget as it had in 1992.

"In this budget we are effectively freezing the CACUM budget while the MUC budget increases 0.6 per cent," said Prescott.

The proposal would require the MUC to spend \$52 000 more than the \$8.7 currently allotted to CACUM.

"This would send a positive message to the arts community that we are committed to supporting them even during these hard times," said Prescott.

Sammy Forcillo, recently elected councillor for St-Jacques and member for the Civic Party voted against the amendment proposed by Prescott despite the fact St-Jacques is one of the most culturally active areas of the city and will be affected most as a result of the cutbacks.

Condoms being recalled

BY SUSAN O'FLINN

TORONTO (CUP) —

SEX IS SAFE if you use a condom, right? Not if it's got the number 3391 on it.

Trojan Enz Spermicidal Lubricant condoms with that number have been recalled due to a suspected defect.

The suspect condoms will show a nine digit number, starting with 3391 as the first four digits, stamped on the edge of the blue wrapper.

"It's just a precautionary measure because we discovered that some [of that lot number] were defective. It is better to err on the side of caution and recall the whole batch," said Peter Brickwood, community

outreach worker with the North York Board of Public Health.

Both the York Federation of Students and York's Women's Centre distribute the condoms free from their offices.

Students with the recalled condoms should be sure you throw them out according to Brickwood. He said that the defective condoms are obvious, they may be dried up or cracked.

Brickwood said people who had used a suspect condom but didn't notice anything unusual have no reason to worry. However, if you are concerned, you should see a doctor for follow-up testing.

THE MCGILL DAILY

comment

New Weird Order

A happy brew of scandal, disgruntled cabinets and furious electorates tired of paying no new taxes, have dumped the leaders of the New World Order one by one.

Canadians have yet to depose their despot. Although he hasn't yet resigned, the worsening economy, which is heading dangerously toward recession, and the failed constitutional accord do not bode well for the future of the Chin.

The question is, who and what will replace him. In Britain, it was John Major, a smiley/slimy man with bad clothes and a predilection for putting thousands of miners out of work. In the U.S. it was Bill Clinton, a "kinder, gentler American", who talks to much and says too little.

The likelihood of a new conservative regime seems as probable as the likelihood that Jesse Helms will come out of the closet. Until you look at the alternatives. Audrey McGlaughlin? Sure, having a woman as P.M. would be great, but in a weakened economic scenario, Canadians are unlikely to vote for an untried party on the federal level, especially in light of perceptions of the newly elected provincial N.D.P. Governments.

The Liberal party is equally as unappealing, not so much for Chrétien's Billy Idol lip spasms, but for his inability to pronounce himself clearly on issues. The fact that he is a francophone will not endear him to Western Canadians either. They remember the last Francophone P.M. and what he did. Most Québécois do too.

That leaves us with Reform and the Maritimes' Confederation of Regions. Neither parties are strong enough to form a majority vote. Also, there is something about neo facism and blatant xenophobia that repulses many people. Strange that.

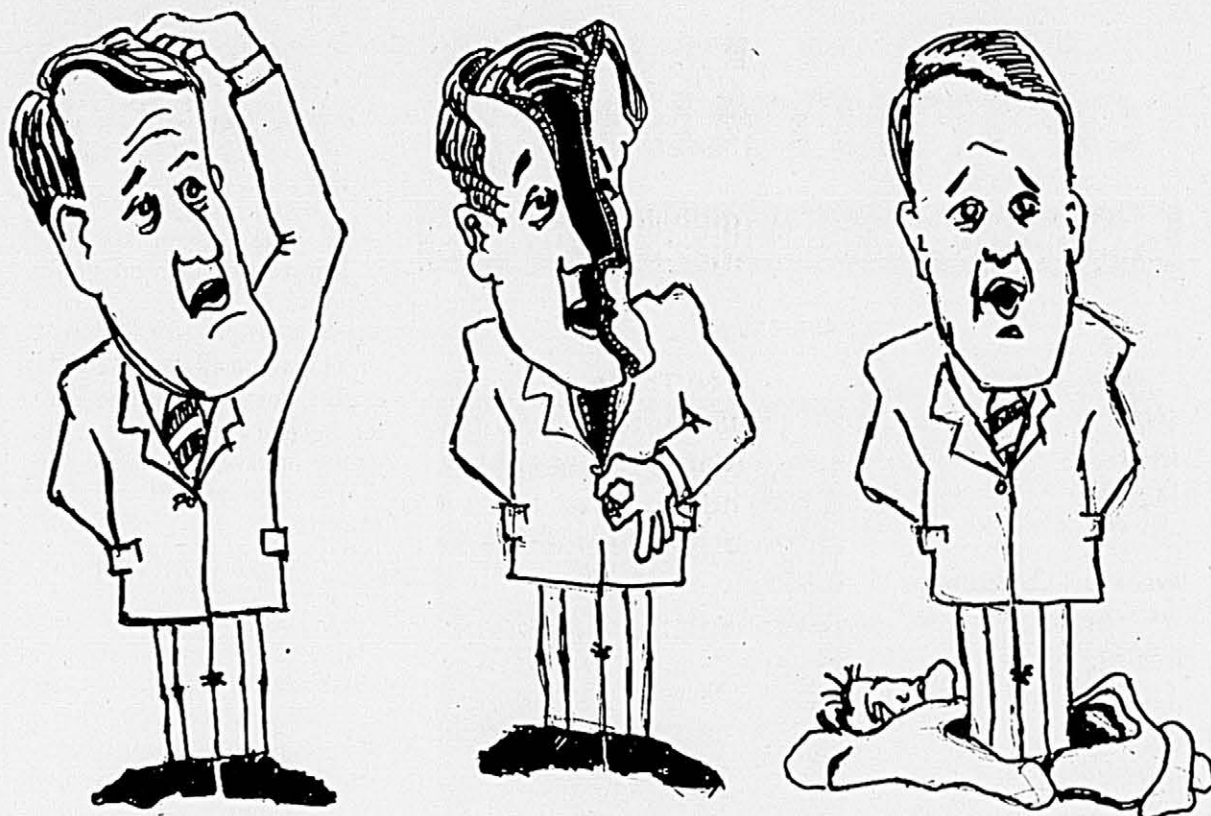
Sadly, the option then seems the conservatives again. Maybe it's time we started looking at the electoral process we call democratic, and see if it really is any good at effectuating change of any kind.

We have to examine the procedures by which people get into politics, and the way the media analyses them. What makes a lawyer or a businessperson any more adept at being an M.P. than say, a taxi driver or a cashier.

The idea behind the riding-based system is that a region be represented by someone who shares its interests. In this light, what interest does Muldoon have in Baie Comeau other than an easy ticket to Parliament?

We have to be very careful — careful not to elect an image, but to elect those we feel will best speak for us in parliament, regardless of party allegiance. If not, we run the risk in letting the same old thing slip in the back door under the guise of something new.

James Forbes



letters, letters, & more letters

You have no right... Unfortunately, her response is probably indicative of how well obscured these incidents were to some, if not most employees of the school board.

Clearly, this entire incident illustrates the urgency of examining and addressing institutionalized racism in our educational systems, and developing and implementing comprehensive policies and mechanisms to better handle issues of racism in these institutions.

McGill Anti-Racism Working Group
Campus Watch Committee

Spelling all the way to arland

To the Daily:
Living in a province where the majority of the population speaks French, we certainly appreciate the fact that anglophones attempt to speak and write the official language of the province.

However, if this gesture is purely a matter of "political correctness" and is therefore not accompanied by a real effort to speak or write the language properly, we end up with mistakes that expose the lack of knowledge and the superficial nature of the journalist.

Madame Pickel [sic], prenez vous un moment et consultez un dictionnaire. Le non musée et masculin, donc, l'article qui doit l'accompagner est bien le, non pas la.

Jorge Passalacqua
Arts

Ontologically yours

To the Daily:
The following is in response to some

of Chuck MacDonald's weird stuff in the Hyde Park column of November 11th. I didn't get it, but it seems he considered the academic and financial benefits of coming to McGill before coming here. I, on the other hand, came to McGill because I was impressed by the most excellent holdings of the McLennan Redpath library, challenged by the climate, and of course awestruck by the amazing calibre of letters in the *Daily*. In this context, Mr. MacDonald's letter is truly awesome.

I guess for his purposes Mr. MacDonald sees the coexistence of an "academic body" and an association of employees as problematic. Strange as it may seem, entities such as the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill have an ontological status (and soon a legal one) independent of his consciousness — in fact a lot of things, such as plenty of information about the goals of the AGSEM, do seem to exist without interacting with Mr. MacDonald's consciousness at all.

During his he-man digression on his nights in the lab and work in the field, Mr. MacDonald fails to mention any of his responsibilities as a TA, assuming he has any. Obviously content with his funding, he seems unable to get beyond the "a deal is a deal argument" — I suggest that he show his letter to all his future employers, not as an example of his powers of argument, but rather as an implied promise never, ever to ask for a raise or improved working conditions. Management people and pet owners love that kind of commitment.

I will allow Mr. MacDonald's unappetizing final remarks, which

somehow make me think of a safe sex/ yogurt ad, stand on their own — "...[would a TA union provide]...clean and safe way to provide every TA with a laughing, happy departmental relationship that tastes good and is good for you, too?" C'mon, Chuck, we're trying to form a union, not a glucose compound — and, as the saying goes — if you can't eat us, join us.

Matthew Pollard
Phd 3, German

Don't ignore frats

To the Daily:

Perhaps there is lesson to be learnt formed last week's failed General Assembly — perhaps, Mr. Prince, it has become clear that ignoring large and influential groups of McGill students can prove costly when least expected.

The failure of SSMU's "event of the season" due to a walkout of disgruntled fraternity supporters, ironically shows the futility of the Student Society without support of McGill's entire student community.

I hope you change your mind, Mr. Prince, that "frats aren't interested in student issues," because like it or not, there is a large community out there who are not only interested but have proved to be quite influential in student affairs.

I'm sure a lot of people worked hard in the organization of the General Assembly, and I hope there will another one in the future so that their work is not completely in vain. It was an unfortunate outcome, but ironically a valuable one. Let's join Mr. Prince and write this one off as a learning experience.

David Morgenstern
U2 Arts

letters

One is not enough

To the Daily:

It was incredulity that we read Daphne Despatis' letter dated November 5th — there, Ms. Despatis had the audacity to complain she was personally offended by Mr. Kafe's lengthy experience of racial harassment and discrimination with the Deux-Montagnes school board.

Indeed throughout the letter she refused to look at how Mr. Kafe has been dehumanized, how he has endured such a tirade of abuse, and how frustrated he must feel over the deplorable manner in which the school board has ignored the judgments that have been made by the Québec Human Rights Commission regarding these incidents.

Rather than commenting on how Mr. Kafe's human rights have been totally violated, Ms. Despatis attempts to defend the school board on the basis of how it treated her!

To put it simply Ms. Despatis, the article was not about how incredibly "professional, fair-minded and human" your "dealings" have been with the school board; rather, it discussed how deeply the school board has abused Mr. Kafe.

Actually, her reaction signifies an all too familiar response of denying that racial harassment and discrimination has occurred, and that a particular public interest is racist.

Concomitant with this denial is an element of insult, shock and indignation; i.e. the whole scenario of How dare you accuse us of racism.



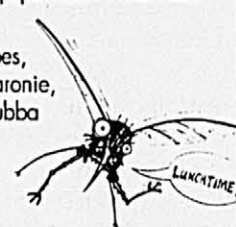
SINCE 1911

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Trading Away Educational Standards

NAFTA opens door to corporate control of universities

The economic policies of globalization may be taking North American education out of the hands of the public and placing it firmly in the hands of corporations with growing political might.

With the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on the road to becoming international law in the new year, students in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico say their schools stand to be turned into profit-generating, high-tech corporate playgrounds whose agendas will be subject to the fickle winds of "competition" in the ever-expanding global market-place.

TORONTO (CUP) —

by
Naomi Klein



Students, educators, and labour organizers fear the tri-lateral deal will decrease their countries' tax bases as large corporations move to Mexico where labour is cheaper and taxes lower.

With federal transfer payments on a steady decline, they say publicly-funded education will suffer. "If you are offering accessible university education, your tax base is very important because without a strong base, federal transfer payments decrease. What we are looking at is a further erosion of Ontario's industrial base, leading to an attack on the universality of social services, including education," said Neil Walker, a researcher with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

Amie Weinberg is a member of International Student Trade, Environment and Development (INSTEAD), a coalition of U.S., Canadian, and Mexican students opposed to the deal.

Weinberg points to the California state education system as a preview of what's to come if NAFTA passes. California, once famous for state schools boasting low tuition and high quality education, has cut education funding by 11 per cent after tax-paying multinationals moved operations to Mexico. As a result, universities have raised tuition fees and, in some cases, have even refused to accept first-year students at all. Several public high schools have been shut down.

"Losing the tax base is a big part

of what is happening in California," said Weinberg.

But Jeff White, a spokesperson for the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa, says because Mexico only accounts for two per cent of Canada's total trade, the government does not expect Canadian corporations to move south.

"We don't expect any relocation of industry," said White. "There are all sorts of reasons why companies relocate. Labour cost is only one of them. NAFTA is only going to have a fairly modest economic impact on Canada. We expect it to be positive."

But critics say when the trade doors open, the demands of industry take precedence over social considerations, as governments attempt to keep corporations at home. The mere threat of leaving creates a climate hostile to corporate taxation.

Weinberg said that in the U.S., corporate access to and control of university resources and policy are being used as bribes for continued and future investment.

Jock Finlayson, vice-president and chief economist of the Business Council on National Issues (BCNI) — a national business lobby group — said more money can't be given to education.

"We don't see much scope to ask government to pour more money into education. We are already over-taxed."

But Weinberg disagreed.

"Economic policy is being based completely on how the corporations can have more money," she said.

PRIVATIZING FOR DOLLARS

Mary Ann O'Connor, coordinator of the Ontario Coalition for Social Justice, said the proposed International Space University (ISU) at Toronto's York University is the "spearhead" of the growing move towards U.S.-style privatization in Canada.

Universities across the world are bidding for the ISU. A board which contains representatives from multinational aerospace firms will decide which country is offering up the most of its resources to secure the "investment".

So far, the Ontario government has pledged \$11 million in start-up costs and \$3.5 million annually towards operating costs of ISU if York is selected. The federal government has pledged \$15 million in capital construction, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for Canadian students. York is offering land and degree status — the University of Toronto is offering up the resources of its engineering department.

Canadian aerospace corporations Spar and COMDEV Ltd. have pledged \$3 million to the project.

Critics say the endeavour amounts to a public subsidy of private enterprise because enrolment would be restricted to those able to pay tuition costs as high as \$25 000, and ISU's potential military and corporate research will give little to the tax-paying public.

"We see the ISU as part of the same agenda of allowing corporations to use public resources for private gains. It is a glimpse at the future if we don't stop free trade — the first private university in Canada," says O'Connor. "The way they are approaching research is by putting enterprise wherever there is the most advantage to corporations without regard for the impact it has on the community."

This direction in education policy is reflected in the federal government's recent Prosperity Initiative.

The federal government spent \$19 million on a steering commit-

tee — the majority of whose members were representatives of major corporations — to come up with a plan for Canada's future prosperity in the "global market-place".

Eight of the report's ten areas in need of reform were education-related. The initiative calls on schools to become primarily, if not exclusively, media for job training and profit-generating research aimed at making the corporate sector more "competitive". (see McGill Daily, Nov. 11)

TRADING OUR WAY TO PROSPERITY

Free trade is the answer being touted worldwide as the solution to the current financial crisis. There is an emerging consensus between industry and government on the role Canadian schools will play in this changing economy.

"The direction of education policy is not going to be directly effected by NAFTA, but we do have to make sure our education institutions are able to compete in today's global market place," says White. "In examining the priorities for the future, we need to strengthen our research in the hard sciences if we are to enhance our competitiveness."

The new shared vision offers economic benefits to both government and industry. If the corporate sector takes on the burden of funding education, the government will have less cause to tax corporations. Taxation gives industry little control over how its revenue is spent by schools

won't be going towards universities' operating budgets.

"We are encouraging businesses to make strategic investments in post-secondary education to areas like Ph.D students doing research in particular disciplines directly related to their (the investor's) fields or beefing an apprenticeship-type system," said Finlayson. "Business and students are going to have to become more aggressive in funding education, like in the U.S."

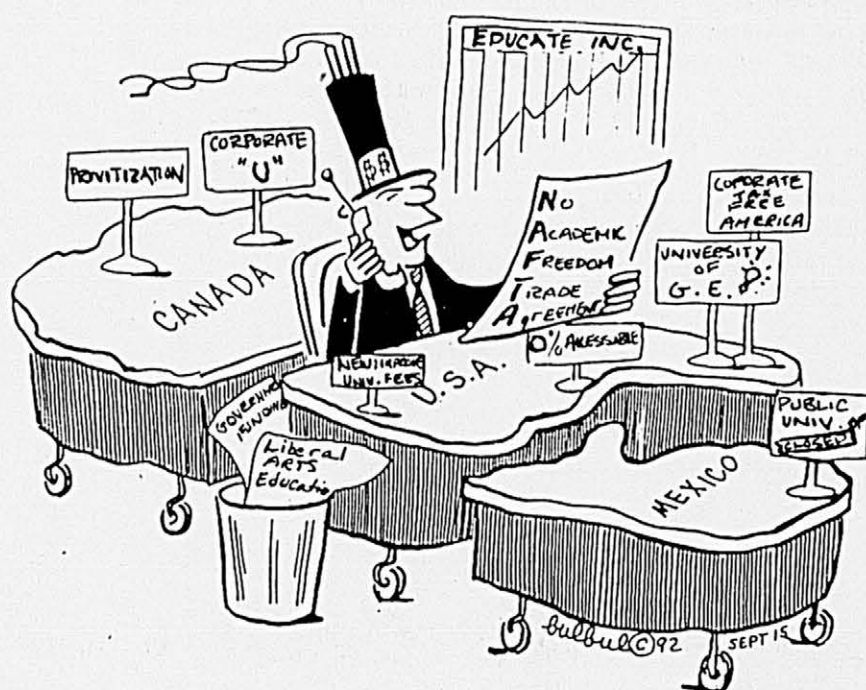
Jim Turk, director of education for the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL), said that's exactly the problem. Industry sees under-funded schools as an opportunity for subsidized job training — something they would otherwise have to do for themselves, he said.

"There is a strong sentiment in the business community that the role of education is to be job-ready. This lessens their own obligations as employers. There is a ridiculously low level of training provided for their own workers — one in three businesses provide it," said Turk.

Catherine Remus, a researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), said the increased corporate involvement in post-secondary education — both its funding and policy making — suits the current federal government, which has cut more than \$3.2 billion from post-secondary education since 1986.

"The government can use NAFTA to make its own vision come true — a smaller government role in social services and smaller transfer payments," she said.

"The Tory vision is a privately-funded system of assembly-line



and government. But when they give institutions money directly, corporations are free to make the schools and graduates suit their profit-making needs.

BCNI's Finlayson confirms that businesses will be investing more in post-secondary education in the next 10 years, and that the money

education, moving students through degree and certificate-granting programs, providing them with the labour and market skills that will make them, and their country, competitive," says Remus.

Remus added that the new vision is a profound shift from the

continued on page 6

NAFTA

Continued from page 5

liberal view of universities as providing accessible training in critical thought, enabling citizens to participate fully in a democratic society.

"International trade is governing our education. The type of researching being promoted (in NAFTA) is trade-driven research, needed to carry out the economic agenda contained in NAFTA. Gone are the wider goals of economic and social development in each of our countries, or any provision for research aimed at improving quality of life in and among our three countries," she said.

THE LAST DAYS OF LIBERAL EDUCATION

Finlayson said that while the liberal model of accessible education is good in theory, it hasn't worked in practice. He advocates more specialization in post-secondary education.

"Not everybody can and should be going off to post-secondary education. We have a very accessible system where the quality is eroded and we can't really afford to pour more government money into it," he said. "We have to ask, are we getting the maximum return on our investment?"

Remus said that one of the most worrisome and far-reaching effects of the world-wide deregulation of trade is the "level playing field" effect which makes unionized labour compete with non-unionized labour and public schools, like those in Canada, compete with private ones in the U.S..

A recent study published by Maclean's magazine shows that U.S. universities enjoy 45 per cent more funding per student than Canadian schools. But current measures to increase our per student funding conspicuously exclude an increase in government subsidies. Instead, Canadian schools are facing cuts in enrolment, tuition fee increases and increased "strategic" corporate sponsorship.

"When it comes to creating a level playing field in education, what is going to stop the growth of American-style privatization of educational services, increasing use of lower-priced American textbooks, or worsening conditions for Canadian faculty—all of which are unacceptable from a Canadian perspective," said Remus.

In Mexico, where there are no tuition fees for public universities, the situation is even more drastic. Since rumblings of a free trade agreement with the U.S. began, the Mexican government has been threatening to implement tuition fees, limit the number of students who go to university and the time they are able to spend there.

Massive student strikes in Mexico last year successfully postponed the reforms.

"The Mexican government is trying to mimic what is happening in

"International trade is governing our education. The type of researching being promoted (in NAFTA) is trade-driven research, needed to carry out the economic agenda contained in NAFTA. Gone are the wider goals of economic and social development in each of our countries, or any provision for research aimed at improving quality of life in and among our three countries."

the States," said Weinberg.

The unquestioned assumption in the government's current economic policy, intimately tied to free trade, is the idea that government must organize the public sector to suit the needs of "investors". With government powers weakened in the name of "harmonization" in proposed agreement, Remus worries that the face of Canada's social programs will be altered irrevocably.

"NAFTA will perpetuate an economic climate and limit government powers to the extent that it will be very difficult to reverse these trends," says Remus. "While such a system will cost the government less money, the real price that Canadians will pay is loss of public control."



Thinking that the Film Society was presenting *Betty Blue*, Martin was horrified to discover he was attending the GA.

The death of a general assembly

BY DAILY STAFF

The Students' society held a General Assembly last week. Assemblies are supposed to be big meetings where Undergraduates from all faculties go to vote on matters affecting Students' society policy. It was a bold idea, having the policies and decisions of the Society discussed and decided directly from the student body, rather than delegating it to officials elected for their appearance and their "experience" in office.

A dedicated group of students worked for weeks preparing for the assembly, consulting students, and debating what was to go on the agenda.

But when it came down to the crunch, not enough people came to the meeting and it lost quorum before there was a chance to approve the agenda. Students' society council, which had already put off the assembly once for lack of publicity, decided at their last meeting not to hold another assembly in the near future.

"I think the verdict of the people is in, and it is that they don't care about the General assembly," said athletics rep James Stewart at the council meeting following the assembly.

To verify Stewart's claim that McGill students have spoke their peace, the *Daily* went to various places on campus and asked people from Arts, Science, Engineering and Commerce, what they thought of it all. We did not take a poll, and we do not have a statistically representative sample.

What we do have is the opinions of 14 randomly selected students telling us what they think. And we think that's important.

Of those surveyed, seven knew and seven did not know about the assembly before it happened. None attended. Of those who knew about the assembly, six saw posters, three were informed by word of mouth, three heard announcements in classes and two read about it in both the *Daily* and the *Tribune*.

Six members of our sample thought that students should hold another assembly, two thought an



Karen Naimer

assembly should only be held if there was a pressing issue to be discussed (one of whom said there should be another assembly this year), three did not think it was a good idea, one didn't know and the other two didn't care.



Paula Dupuis

Eight cited lack of information as the reason they didn't go. Three said they had work or study commitments, and two said they didn't care.

Karen Lamcriocy, Chemistry U2, said she would have gone "If I thought there would be less

bureaucracy and more action."

"I didn't really understand what my role would have been or how it would work. The posters just said to go if you cared about the issues," said Paula Dupuis Arts U2.

"I was intimidated at the idea of going up against a bunch of Frat boys," added Dupuis.

Karen Naimer, U1 Arts, said she thought the idea of having a general assembly was good.

"I think it's an excellent idea because students get a say on decisions. I think it's important to take advantage of the opportunities you have at your disposal," she said.

"I think it's a good idea, I just had no idea what it was about," said Naimer. "A lot of people are getting tired of going to things and trying to get involved and not getting anywhere."

U1 Engineering student Zina Talje said she didn't think there should be another assembly because "There are so many other things going on and it's hard to tell people to go to any one thing."

She said if there was a better publicity campaign with people going person to person to get people to come out the assembly might have been a good idea.

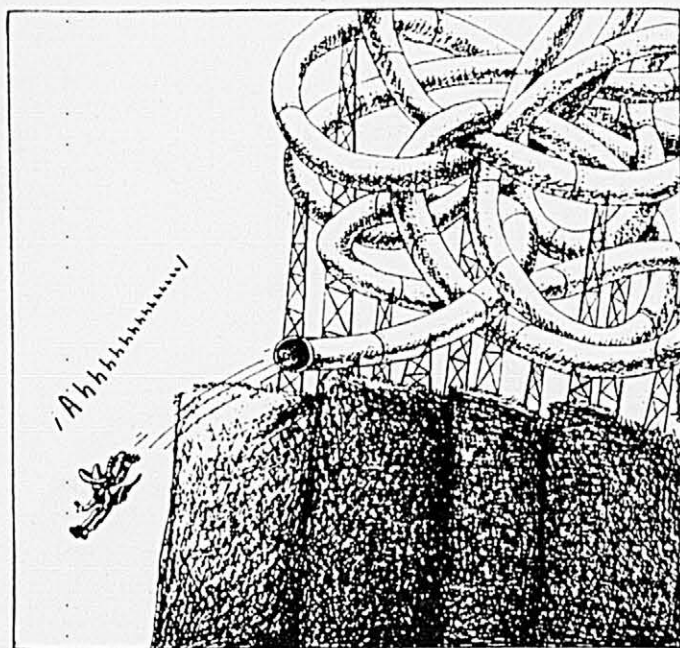
"Most of the time people want to go but don't know," she said.

Imran Rahman another Engineering student, said he would only go to another general assembly "If the issues were substantial."

Jamie Spreng, Arts U3, said he thought general assemblies were a good idea in principle "But you can't expect that much participation. I don't know how representative it is. Most people don't even vote in student elections."

Spreng said he would go to a new assembly "if the subjects to be discussed really affected the student body in a great way." He added that most of the people at the assembly were there for one issue or another.

People overwhelmingly supported the idea of a general assembly with 11 saying it was a good idea, 1 saying it wasn't and 2 unsure.



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Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Support Group for young adults under 25. Meetings start Thursday, November 19th, 7 p.m., YWCA, 1355 René Levesque Blvd. W., room 315. If you are looking for an affirmative, supportive, non-judgemental group, you're welcome to attend. Call Lisa Klein of Ville Marie Social Service Centre's

'Project 10,' Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 989-1885, ext. 240.

Interfaith Dialogue: Students getting together to learn about and share perspectives on vital issues concerning their faith. First meeting Monday, Nov. 16th, 7:30 p.m. Registration Rev. Roberta Clare 398-4104. McGill Chaplaincy.



Join us for a Chinese Shabbat dinner at Hillel House, 3460 Stanley, November 20, 1992, 6:00 p.m. \$7.00 (Dorm chits accepted) Sign **HILLEL** up early!!!

Want to Talk? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) sponsors two discussion groups at the Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer, above Milton, on Fridays. A coming out support group meets at 5:30, and a discussion group meets at 7:30. A great way to find out about yourself and others.

Confused or Curious? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) is restarting peer counselling. Anyone interested in finding out about LBGM or has questions about their sexuality is welcome to drop by room 417, Shalmer or call 398-6822. Hours are during lunch and 7 to 10, Monday through Saturday.

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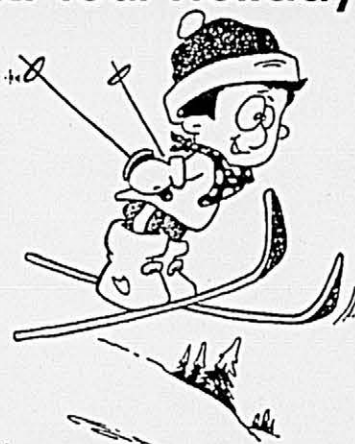
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